

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Application No. 09/987,358  
Attorney Docket No. Q67188

## **REMARKS**

### **I. Introduction**

Applicants add new claims 10 and 11. Therefore, by this Amendment, claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claims 1-9 have been examined and are rejected. Specifically, claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner acknowledges that claims 1-9 contain allowable subject matter and indicates that claims 1-9 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants overcome the § 112, second paragraph, rejections of claims 1-9 as follows, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance with claims 1-11.

### **II. Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph**

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that the phrase "and so on" in claims 1 and 5 renders the claims indefinite because the claims include elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by "and so on"), thereby rendering the claims unascertainable. Applicants amend claims 1 and 5 to remove the objectionable language, thereby overcoming the rejection of claims 1-9 under § 112, second paragraph.

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### **III. New Claims 10-11**

Applicants add new claims 10 and 11, which each recite features previously recited in claim 5. Claims 10 and 11 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

### **IV. Formal Matters**

#### *A. Priority*

The Examiner acknowledges Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119.

#### *B. Cited References*

The Examiner provides signed and initialed copies of the Forms PTO/SB/08 and PTO-1449 submitted with Applicants' Information Disclosure Statements filed on August 26, 2002 and November 14, 2001, respectively, thereby acknowledging consideration of the references cited therein.

#### *C. Drawings*

Applicants submit herewith a replacement sheet for Fig. 8 including a *Prior Art* legend. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his objection to the drawings. Furthermore, Applicants submit herewith a replacement sheet for Fig. 1 that corrects various typographical errors.

#### *D. Claims*

In addition to the aforementioned amendments to claims 1 and 5, relating to the § 112, second paragraph, rejections of claims 1-9, Applicants amend claims 1-3 to correct minor errors

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therein. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments are not intended to narrow the scope of the original claims, but are rather for precision of language and to explicitly recite within the claims what was believed to have already been implicitly defined therein. Accordingly, these amendments do not foreclose application of reasonable equivalents.

#### V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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